

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text, comprising:

(a) ~~a step of inputting a sentence an~~ by utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words;

(b) ~~a step of determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words of the inputted utterance by~~ performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings of the utterance;

(c) ~~a step of displaying the candidates; and~~

(d) ~~a step of selecting~~ one of the displayed candidates by a user;

~~whereby, the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on a unit of the~~ for each successive word-string in said from a beginning of the inputted utterance until an end of the utterance is reached.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 22, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidates due to an acoustic score.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 3, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of ~~the a~~ number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a converting inputted speech to text~~, comprising:

an input section for inputting an utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words;

an utterance pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of ~~an~~the utterance ~~of~~ from said input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing a following word candidate from a fixed word-string ~~by using a language model;~~

a word-string preparing section for preparing ~~a word-string candidates~~ based on one to several words from the extracted feature amount ~~the of one of the plurality of word-strings of the utterance and from the word candidate by using at least any one of a language model and an acoustic model;~~

a display section for displaying the word-string candidates;

an operating section for a user to select one of the word-string candidates being displayed, the selected word-string candidate forming the fixed word-string; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing said word candidate preparing section to prepare ~~a~~the following word candidate from ~~a~~the fixed word-string selected by said operating section,

wherein said word-string preparing section repeats preparation of said word-string candidates for each successive word-string in said utterance using said following word candidate until the end of the utterance is reached.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a converting inputted speech to text~~ according to claim 5, wherein said word-string preparing section prepares a phrase-based candidate by an extension process to repeat word linking according to word-based linkage probability.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 6, wherein said word-string preparing section further having an updating process ~~due according~~ to an acoustic score.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 7, wherein said word-string preparing section ends the extension process by reaching of ~~the a~~ number of phrase candidates subjected to the extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 6, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 7, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~inputting a~~ converting inputted speech to text according to claim 8, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method for providing a program to repeating in order:

(a) ~~a step of inputting a sentence by an~~ utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words;

(b) ~~a step of determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words of the inputted utterance by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings of the inputted utterance;~~

(c) ~~a step of displaying the candidates; and~~

(d) ~~a step of selecting one of~~ the displayed candidates by a user;

~~whereby the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on a unit of the~~ for each successive word-string in said ~~from a beginning of the inputted utterance until an end of the utterance is reached.~~

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium ~~for providing a program according to claim 13, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate~~ due according to an acoustic score.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~to tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating~~ in order:

(a) ~~a step of inputting a sentence by an~~ utterance, said utterance comprised of a plurality of word-strings which each include one or more words;

(b) ~~a step of determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words~~ of the inputted utterance by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings of the inputted utterance;

(c) ~~a step of displaying the candidates; and~~

(d) ~~a step of selecting~~ one of the displayed candidates by a user;

~~whereby the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on a unit of the~~ for each successive word-string in said ~~from a beginning of the inputted utterance until an end of the utterance is reached.~~

18. (Cancelled).

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19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein said candidate determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidates due to an acoustic score.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~inputting~~converting inputted speech to text according to claim 1, wherein said candidate determining step (b) determines said candidates of a-word-strings on the basis of a language information and an acoustic information of the selected word-strings when there are preselected word strings.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~inputting~~converting inputted speech to text according to claims 1 or 21, wherein at least one of said candidates of word-strings is a phrase built by an extension process to repeat word linking according to a word-based linkage probability on said candidate determining step (b).